

September 17, 2013

Report and recommendations from the State Technical Committee-Forestry Subcommittee Meeting
8/14/13

Attendees: Roger Monthey, Tom Gordon, Stephen Follette, Andy Tolman, David Rocque, Andy Shultz, Gordon Moore, Melissa Brant, Juan Hernandez (NRCS), Tony Jenkins (NRCS), Dan Baumert (NRCS), Gerald Barnes (NRCS), Dave Garcelon (NRCS), and Christopher Jones (NRCS)

Subcommittee heard presentations from Dan Baumert, Gerald Barnes and David Garcelon

Subcommittee discussed the issue of where and when Access Roads and Trails and Landings should be eligible for NRCS financial assistance.

Subcommittee reviewed District Conservationists recommendations and Technical Service Providers input on this issue.

Subcommittee recommends to the State Technical committee the following;

1. No NRCS Financial Assistance for new Access Roads or new Forest Trails and Landings, unless a waiver is granted from State Conservationist. Such waivers will be considered in cases when re-locating access roads or forest trails and landings is a better or more cost-effective alternative to solving a Water Quality-Sedimentation resource concern or restoring hydrology/wetland functions. Exception to the prohibition is Tribal lands.
2. NRCS financial assistance for Access Roads or Forest Trails and Landings will be only for rehabilitation of existing access roads or trails and landings where NRCS planner can confirm the existence of a water quality resource concern. A water quality resource concern is defined as sediment entering a perennial water body; or sediment entering an intermittent stream, with potential to negatively impact a perennial water body; or a condition of the existing road, trail or landing that is impairing hydrologic or wetland functions.
3. NRCS financial assistance will only be provided on specific sections of access roads or forest trails or landings that need rehabilitation to address a water quality resource concern. Water quality resource concerns shall be defined as in # 2 above.
4. NRCS staff, with assistance from State Soil Scientist and others should develop a model to be used to determine if access roads and/or forest trails and landings are impairing hydrologic or wetland functions.
5. There is a need to train NRCS Employees and Forestry TSPs in recognizing and mitigating water quality resource concerns pertaining to Access Roads and Forest Trails and Landings, especially those related to restoring hydrologic or wetland functions. The training should include information about innovative technologies such as "rock sandwiches".

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Shultz, Maine Forest Service

State Technical Committee Forestry Sub-committee spokesperson